

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-13 are pending. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-306059 of Mori *et al.* (EP 1380212 used as English translation) in view of US 7,001,858 B2 of Grolig *et al.* (Grolig). The applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The European publication to Mori *et al.* (EP 1380212) discloses that the film is moderately permeable to water vapor in paragraphs 0006-0008, 0011, 0014, 0016, 0024 and 0042 and Examples 1-5 in Table 2. Note from paragraph 0007 of that publication that it is one of the objects of the invention that the casing film be moderately permeable to water vapor.

On the other hand, Grolig discloses in column 6, lines 10-36, that the casings largely or completely impermeable to water vapor. Therefore, the films of Mori and Grolig have very different properties in terms of permeability to water vapor. It would undermine one of the objects of the invention of Mori to modify the film of Mori with the multilayer casing of Grolig. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have modified the film of Mori in the manner proposed in the office action, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 was Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori, Grolig, and US 4150697 to Dowell. Claim 3 depends on claim 1 and is thus considered to be patentable for the reasons given above.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because the amendment merely corrects errors in the claims and does not raise new issues.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions arise, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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